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KEY ROUTE
HEIGHTS NURSERY
COMPANY

1926

CALIFORNIA
DAHLIAS

POT GROWN BULBS
FIELD RIPENED
OUR SPECIALTY

OUR SPRING CATALOG

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY, CONTAINING
A MOST COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF FLOWERING
PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN IN THE VERY LATEST
AND BEST IMPROVED VARIETIES
MAILED ON REQUEST

3852 LOMA VISTA AVENUE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

Large double flowers, full to center, with broad flat, somewhat loosely arranged floral rays with broad points or rounded tips.

Each

- Al Koran.** Yellow suffused with golden rod and amber. The petals of this flower have the marcelle wave which makes it very attractive. It won first prize at the San Francisco and Oakland Shows in 1922 for best-established seedling. Also first prize for vase of twelve shown with stems at the latter show. \$1.00
- Al Malaikah.** Salmon shading to orange yellow, suffused with old rose. Impossible to describe the beauty of this dahlia50
- Amun Ra (Seal).** Wondrous coloring, size of flower, free-flowering and vigor place it on the zenith. The outer petals are gorgeous shades of copper and orange shading to gold and amber, deepening in the centre to a rich, dark, reddish bronze with metallic lustre75
- Aibonita.** An immense flower of a lavender or violet pink, shading to white, with a rich golden yellow at base of petals50
- California Superba (Bessie Boston).** This is probably the largest and best light pink dahlia. With narrow petals of a delicate shade of pink and shades to a blush center, stem strong and prolific bloomer. A fine cut flower 1.50
- Champagne (Bessie Boston).** Is easily 100 per cent in all the requisites for a perfect dahlia. Color is warm autumn shades, varying from burnished copper to dull golden champagne and chamois. Stem is heavy and holds the massive flower absolutely upright, and the bushes are plentiful producers of blooms. A prize winner of great quality and rare beauty 1.50
- Dorothy Robbins.** Color ochraceous buff, carrot red in center. A splendid variety in every respect50
- Dawn (Pelicano 1925).** A large exhibition decorative color, a wonderful cream, shading to yellow suffused with shell pink. Flowers held erect on good stiff stems, far above the foliage. Average size eight to nine inches. Dawn has won first prize for the best 1920 seedling at the Palace Hotel Show. Best dahlia in the show 1921 held by the Alameda County Floral Society, and also best dahlia 1921 at Palace Hotel Show. Green plants only 2.00
- Earl Williams (Doolittle).** An immense flower of perfect form. In color, the base of the petals are crimson with white tips. Plants are very free in bloom. This is one of the finest and most attractive dahlias ever introduced 1.00
- Ellinor Vanderveer.** An incomparable dahlia of exquisite beauty and great size, having every desirable quality. The large blossoms are of a glowing, satiny, rose pink. The flowers are of great depth and substance, and are held far above a tall, sturdy bush, on exceptionally long, stiff stems. One of the very first to bloom in our garden, making it very desirable, where the blooming season is short 2.50
- El Dorado (A new introduction).** An immense blossom of vivid gold, deepening in the center. This exceptionally fine dahlia of great substance stands well out of the foliage of a low growing bush, on strong erect stems, making it not only an exhibition variety, but an excellent cut flower. Green plants only 2.00

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—(Continued)

| | Each |
|---|------|
| Hercules. A quilled flower of enormous size, color a blending of Tangarine and deep yellow | .75 |
| Judge Langford. A new Mastick dahlia, flower large, color velvety purple, lined white; a great producer with strong stems | 1.00 |
| Judge Alton B. Parker. Very true to form, color a brilliant golden buff, fine for exhibition | .75 |
| Judge Marean. The color is a blending of salmon pink, red, Iridescent orange, yellow and pure gold. Medium size, very prolific | .75 |
| Jersey's Beauty. The most talked of Eastern dahlia, originated by W. H. Waite. A perfect bloom of Erosine pink, carried high above the foliage on a long wiry stem. This beautiful pink dahlia is a famous prize winner, and one of the best keepers as a cut flower we have ever grown. Green plants only | 1.50 |
| Jessie K. Prescott. A beautiful large flower of an unusual lovely coloring. Deep orange at the center, gradually shading to creamy orange on the rows of outer petals, and illuminated with a violet glow | 1.00 |
| Katherine Valentine. Flower of medium size, stem long and stiff; color clear salmon tinted orange to center, a fine new cut-flower for the Florist trade | 1.00 |
| Kittie Dunlap (Bessie Boston). Blooms freely all season, has good keeping qualities, long firm stems, immense size and great substance. In color like American Beauty rose | .50 |
| Lucy Davis. The form is that of the perfect decorative type. Color, rich golden apricot, clear and without shading | .50 |
| Mary C. Burns. Very large flower of the beautiful two-toned coloring. The outside of the petals are of gold, and the reverse a dull red | .50 |
| Meadow Lark (Pelicano. A 1924 introduction). A fine dahlia of a new coloring. It has shadings of buff and straw, with the reverse side of the florets darker. A very large perfect flower, on extra strong stems, a vigorous grower and great producer, fine for cut flowers and exhibition | 2.00 |
| Mecca. A brilliant burnt orange of the finest form exhibition, flowers carried on a strong stem well above an attractive foliage | 1.00 |
| Mabel Thatcher. Large flowers of a pale yellow shade are borne on stiff, strong stems; fine exhibition type | .50 |
| Millionaire. One of the largest varieties in cultivation. Color is lavender, shading to white | .50 |
| Millie Rodgers. A beautiful color of old gold shading to amber. The flowers are held erect on long stems far above the foliage. As a cut flower the blooms last for days. A pretty dahlia for garden effect and good for exhibition purposes | .75 |
| Mrs. Carl Salbach. A very attractive shade of lavender pink, with long, straight stems. Unexcelled for exhibition. Consistent prizewinner. A lasting cut-flower | .50 |
| Mrs. Florence M. Cornelius. A deep amber shade blending into gold, flowers very deep of the largest size. Stems extra long and wiry, plants very productive; an excellent keeping cut-flower and exhibition variety; a most valuable dahlia for the Florist trade | 2.00 |

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—(Continued)

| | Each |
|--|------|
| Mrs. I. De Ver Warner. This very large blossom of a soft orchid, or rich rosy mauve, is one of the best of the Eastern originations. Refined, beautifully formed flower, with long, stiff stems; a prolific bloomer and a fine cut-flower | .75 |
| Mrs. Eleanor Martin (Pelicano New 1924). One of the finest decorative yet offered and it is no exaggeration when we describe it as a Giant flower. The blooms average 10 to 11 inches across on a Giant stem the latter being two feet long and like a cane. The form of the flower is of the best exhibition type, in fact, it combines all the points which go to make a perfect decorative. The color is a beautiful Mulberry suffused with gold; excellent producer, and a good keeper | 2.00 |
| M. H. De Young (A new introduction). A beautiful blossom of pure old gold with scarcely any variation in color, except perhaps the center is illuminated with a slightly brighter shade. This exceedingly attractive flower is an invaluable addition to the Autumn colored dahlias so much in demand. The large flower is held high on absolutely stiff stems, growing far out of the foliage. An excellent variety for exhibition and cut-flowers. A prize winner of great merit. Green plants only | 2.00 |
| Murat. Apricot shading to coral pink. The extreme edge of each petal looks as though an artist's brush had painted it with coral pink | 1.00 |
| Nobilis. The colors of brilliant crimson and white are well distributed. A constant early and late bloomer | .50 |
| Princess Pat. A magnificent new decorative of a glorious shade of old rose | .50 |
| President Wilson (New 1924). This is the best sent out by Mr. G. T. West for years. The flowers are large and on long erect stems and of a brilliant vermillion scarlet. A new novelty from England | 1.50 |
| P. Quimby. Pure white, good keeper | .50 |
| Paul Michael. Golden orange in color, shading to old rose on reverse of petals. Won first prize in San Francisco and Oakland. As an exhibition variety, this dahlia is a leader | .75 |
| Rosa Nell. A clear, bright rose—a rare color in dahlias. An immense bloom; one of the very largest; of very fine formation, with extra long, stiff stems, held high above a strong, vigorous plant of beautiful foliage | .75 |
| Rookwood. A pure bright cerise rose without a touch of magenta, and beautiful under artificial light. The flowers are immense, and are held on stiff stems well above a low growing, spreading bush. An entirely new shade of pink and most difficult to describe, somewhat resembling the Mrs. Charles Russell rose. A prize dahlia of great merit | 1.50 |
| Senorita. A rich velvety crimson. Each bloom held absolutely erect on extra strong stems, measures from 9 to 10 inches across; of perfect form until late in the season. A 1922 prize winner. | 1.00 |
| Shadow's Lavender. (Bessie Boston). Very large silvery lavender, shading to white. The stems are perfect and hold the blooms high above the plant. The lavender becomes deeper late in the season, making the flower very attractive. Awarded first prize at Palace Hotel Show for best fifty blooms in 1920, also in 1921, and later | 1.50 |
| Shannon. A new orange yellow, medium size, wiry stem, very prolific, good keeper as a cut-flower; excellent Florist dahlia | .75 |

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS—(Continued)

| | Each |
|---|------|
| Snowdrift (Broomall). One of the best white decoratives in cultivation; a good keeper | .75 |
| The Bashful Giant. Color, apricot with golden shadings. Large flowers on good stems | .75 |
| The Grizzly. (.Frank C. Burns). A great dark velvety maroon beauty. Flowers are extra large with reflexed petals, extra long stems | .50 |
| "The Pride of California." A crimson red, dark, full center; huge flowers on long perpendicular stems. | .50 |
| The Wizzard of Oz (Doolittle). This vertiable giant is a rare shade of glowing amber pink, of soft salmon shades and held high on strong stems. One of the finest exhibition and cut-flower dahlias. A prize winner wherever shown | 2.00 |

HYBRID CACTUS DAHLIAS

The Hybrid Cactus Dahlias are becoming the most popular. They have broader and more massive petals. Many of the largest dahlias are of this type. They are excellent for cut flowers, and being a hardy variety, do well in almost any climate.

| | Each |
|---|-------------|
| Claremont. Soft rose pink with cream shadings. Extra long stiff stems. A prize winner | .75 |
| El Granada (Bessie Boston). The color is a vivid orange, and the petals twist and interlace, showing at the tips a creamy yellow reverse. The long stem grows well out of the foliage and is absolutely stiff and faultless. The high bushes are covered with large, deep flowers with closed centers, from early until late season. As the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, it won the Gold Medal of the Dahlia Society of California in 1922. In the show in 1923, two first prizes, for the best twenty-five blooms and Dr. Tevis' prize for the best and most artistic dahlia. Green plants | \$2.50 5.00 |
| Elsie Oliver (Bessie Boston). A strong grower of a beautiful creamy pink shading to cream in the center. It is a perfect hybrid cactus type, good producer with a strong stem, excellent for exhibition | 1.50 |
| Ismalia. Velvety maroon shading to red. A very large flower with perfect form | .50 |
| Insulinda. Very large orange buff, overlaid with a golden sheen, shading to orange deep in center, with old rose on reverse of petals | .50 |
| Islam Patrol. Very dark velvety scarlet, tipped and flushed with pure gold. This dahlia should be in every garden as it has wonderful qualities. In 1922 received first prize in collection of eight best California Dahlias shown with stem. First prize in collection of eight Hybrid Cactus Dahlias, Oakland Show. First prize in collection of nine Hybrid Cactus Dahlias, Palace Hotel Show, San Francisco | 1.50 |
| J. W. Davis. Deep shade of cerise at center, gradually shading to a lighter tint. A very large flower that holds its center throughout the season. One of the finest of the new prize winners | 1.00 |
| Mariposa. A delightful shade of pink which is intensified by a violet suffusion and deepening in the center. The veining of the petals heightens the beauty and increase the novelty of the coloring. This beautiful bloom of great size and substance, having an extra long, stiff stem, is one of the best for exhibition and for cutting. A prize winner | 1.25 |

HYBRID CACTUS DAHLIAS—(Continued)

| | Each |
|--|------|
| Minamoto. A brilliant scarlet, very large fine form and habit, excellent stem, good cut-flower | .50 |
| Moslem. Burnt orange shading to amber. A beautiful flower, large size, and good keeper; a prize winner of great merit | .75 |
| Mrs. W. E. Estes. An incomparable white novelty of marvelous beauty. We believe it to be the largest and finest pure white dahlia ever grown. Excellent stem, good keeper | .50 |
| Rollo Boy (Pelicano New 1924). This is a Hybrid Cactus of great size with every flower carried perfectly erect on a strong stem. A delicate shade of amber shading to old gold. The plants require little attention as regards thinning. This variety being in a every way one of the most striking advances yet made on the Hybrid Cactus section. It is a conspicuous garden plant and if desired for exhibition it is the largest in this section. Stock limited. A first prize winner | 2.00 |

CACTUS DAHLIA

The Cactus Dahlias described below are of the true type. They have the long narrow pointed petals. When exhibiting for competition, they must have perfectly closed centers.

| | Each |
|--|------|
| Alabaster. Color, pure white, flowers of large size; excellent for exhibition | .50 |
| A. R. Perry. Old rose, tipped with gold. A very beautiful and large exhibition flower, with long, narrow, incurved petals | .75 |
| Bearclaws. A deep red of giant size American Cactus, fine for exhibition; strong grower, very prolific.... | 1.00 |
| Curlew. Lavender rose color, fine for exhibition, massive full flowers, very long florets, incurving over center, splendid size and shape | .75 |
| Ballet Girl. The biggest percentage of the flowers are orange with a white center | .50 |
| Herbret Raby. Wine crimson huge flowers. Long narrow incurving petals; good exhibition cactus | .50 |
| Mrs. Margaret Stredwick. A soft pink, deepening at tips and base. Very large and incurved | .50 |
| Sydney Jones (New). A new English variety; the most attractive in the cactus of large size; yet easily carried on stiff stems. A deep pink enhanced by a disc of yellow at base tipped with yellow. Very scarce | 1.50 |
| Union Jack. A striking novelty. Large red incurved petals, tipped white. A very attractive dahlia, greatly admired in the garden and on the exhibition table | .75 |

Special Offers

We are making this special offer to introduce our Bulbs where they have not yet been tried, and prove their superior blooming qualities, the first season in any climate. Each Bulb carefully selected and labeled true to name—no two alike. All our selections have 12 guaranteed tubers in each collection, carefully balanced as to color and are made up of large Dahlias only, from varieties that can be found in our Catalog. These collections are \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00, each postpaid.

Testimonials

Groveport, Ohio, October 3, 1925.

The pot bulbs I got from you last spring have produced wonderful plants and given us a great amount of joy.

L. N.

New Britain, Conn., October 6, 1925.

I simply had to drop you a line about the Dahlias I got from you last spring. We had a poor year, but everyone that saw mine, said they were the best anywhere.

O. F. G.

Clayton, Mo., April 9, 1925.

It is with pleasure that I thank you for shipment of tubers received. The lot arrived in excellent condition. You may rest assured we will remember you on future orders.

M. W. F. Co.

Winnetka, Ill., June 15, 1925.

The Dahlia plants I ordered have arrived and I wish to congratulate you on the care with which you packed and shipped them.

W. S. H.

Lebanon, Pa., September 16, 1925.

Just to let you know that the Dahlia bulbs I bought of you last spring are all in bloom and sure are a fine lot.

W. R. S.

Roan Mountain, Tenn., September 26, 1925.

The bulbs we ordered from you last spring were all true to name and did fine.

H. & P.

Providence, R. I., April 13, 1925.

Packages of bulbs arrived in splendid condition. Thank you for the extras.

W. S.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 5, 1925.

The Dahlia bulbs arrived in good shape. Thank you for generous count.

C. V.

Ferron Park, Spooner, Wis., June 6, 1925.

All plants and bulbs arrived in fine condition, and are doing nicely.

F. F.

Gladstone, Ore., March 4, 1925.

Dahlia bulbs received in first class condition, and a splendid good lot of bulbs. Permit me to thank you for the extras.

Mrs. F. T. B.

Cultivation of Dahlias

Dahlias are easily grown, requiring no special soil, or treatment, to bring them to perfection. They love an open sunny location, but succeed in partial shade. Prepare the soil thoroughly by digging 12 to 18 inches deep, possibly in the fall and then again in the spring, before planting.

If the soil is poor, work in some well rotted stable manure, or artificial fertilizer, but don't overdo this.

Dig the holes 3 feet apart, and about 6 inches deep; drive a stout stake in each hole, and place bulbs close to the stake, eyes showing upward, and cover with two or three inches of fine soil, leaving the hole to be filled after the plant comes up.

Plant anytime between April 1st and June 15th.

When the plants have made their third set of leaves, cut out the top to make them branch.

The most important thing from now on is hoeing and cultivating the soil, until the buds appear; then give the beds a good mulching of manure, to keep the ground moist; and water the plants thoroughly once or twice a week.

If thrips appear, spray with a nicotine solution. It should be done four times at intervals of four days; after which the plants can be kept clean by spraying them with a strong pressure of water through the garden hose. Some good growers, soon as the shoots come through, spray every week to be sure to keep them away.

MILDEW—Is usually caused by sudden extremes in the temperature or extremes in wet and dry soils or growing the plants too close together. Dahlias like air and sunshine.

REMEDY—Dust freely with flower of sulphur in the morning while the dew is on the leaves.

RED SPIDER—It can never appear if overhead watering is practiced. When it does come, flower of sulphur is the remedy.

Many of the best dahlia growers sprinkle their dahlia plants nearly every night in hot weather to keep all insect pests away, but do not sprinkle after October 1st.

To have large blooms it is absolutely necessary to disbud, leaving only one bud to each shoot; but leave two young sprouts near the base of each stem, so as to insure a new crop of blooms. Dahlias will continue to bloom until the frost kills the tops; the tubers are dug and stored in a dry cellar or basement, cover them with dry sand, soil or sawdust, to keep from shriveling. Divide the tubers in the spring after the eyes show plainly, being careful that each tuber has an eye. Cover them again and keep dry until planted.

HOW TO KEEP CUT BLOOMS OF DAHLIAS

Cut the flowers in the evening if possible, and before the pollen has too well developed. Burn the ends of the stems on a gas flame; or better still, for exhibition purposes, dip ends of stems in boiling water for about 12 seconds and immediately plunge in fresh cold water. Place in cool place or out of doors for the night.

Should dahlias be picked in the day time, put the stems in a pitcher containing three inches of boiling water and leave there 15 minutes. Then remove to a deep vase of fresh, cold water. The less foliage the better. Wilted flowers may often be revived in the same manner.

KEY ROUTE HEIGHTS NURSERY COMPANY

3852 LOMA VISTA AVENUE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

L. Nelson, Manager

PEONY-FLOWERED DAHLIAS

Are of immense size, usually of one to three rows of long flat or twisted and pointed petals, showing a large open yellow center.

| | Each |
|---|------|
| Alma Davis. Salmon pink shading to deep old rose and apricot. A winner of first prizes in California and Eastern Shows; its giant blooms are held on long wiry stems above a strong vigorous plant of a beautiful foliage. It is a fine lasting cut-flower and exhibition variety, the best dahlia in its class and color we have ever grown | 2.00 |
| Albert Ward. An immense flower of deep purple and one of the best Eastern Dahlias ever introduced. A perfect exhibition flower with good stems..... | 1.00 |
| City of Portland. Immense flowers of a clear deep rich yellow, very productive; a first prize winner | .50 |
| Gorgeous. Yellow shading to bright scarlet. Because of their unusual substance the blossoms are splendid exhibition and cut-flowers. The plant grows very tall and the late blooms will be as large as the early ones | 1.00 |
| Miss Strange. A tall growing peony of large size, creamy yellow in color | .75 |
| Mrs. Jessie Seal. Pink, great attraction; very superior | .50 |
| Mrs. Josiah T. Marean. Old rose with golden shadings at base of flower. Profuse bloomer and vigorous grower. An exceptional exhibition variety | 1.00 |
| The Oriole (Burns). A stunning big blossom of an attractive mixture of colors, burnt orange, red and yellow. Some flowers on the bush are tipped white. Blooms freely on good stems. Takes the decorative form in the East | .75 |

COLLARETTE DAHLIAS

Have a single row of eight petals, like the single dahlia, with a collar of small narrow petals around the yellow center.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Abbe Hugonard. Purple edged; collar white | .50 |
| Ami Nonin. A beautiful flower shaded old rose | .35 |
| Aunt Dinah. Maroon, with a collar of lighter tint | .35 |
| Geant De Lyon. An enormous flower of velvety maroon with a long, white collar | .50 |
| Herald. Large, rich, rosy pink with white collar | .35 |
| The Marksman. Light ground splashed with crimson | .35 |

POMPON DAHLIAS

The Pompon Dahlias are the finest for cut flowers; blooms are small, compact and full to the center, and produced upon long, wiry stems.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Amber Queen. Golden amber | .25 |
| Blush Gem. Pale pink, edged cerise | .25 |
| Candy Kid. Coral pink shaded lavender | .50 |
| Daisy. Amber shading to apricot | .25 |
| Helen Lambert. Canary yellow | .25 |
| Johnny. Deep maroon. Very small | .25 |
| Little Irene. Clear canary yellow | .50 |
| Little Lloyd. Burnt orange to amber | .50 |
| Snow Clad. A standard white | .25 |

SHOW AND HYBRID SHOW DAHLIAS

These Dahlias are the closely quilled ball-shaped varieties. The Hybrid or Giant Shows are becoming great favorites on account of their tremendous size.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Clara Seaton. Color is a rich golden bronze, with a beautiful quilled petals | .35 |
| General Haig. Best scarlet show. Remarkably fine.... | .35 |
| General Miles. An enormous flower. Color light violet, striped and spotted with purplish magenta | .50 |
| Gold Medal. Fancy, bright lemon yellow, regularly striped dark crimson | .50 |
| Golden Opportunity. Rich buttercup yellow, shaded burnt orange directly in center of each bloom..... | .35 |
| W. W. Rawson. White overlaid with lavender blush.... | .35 |

To Our Customers

We take great pleasure in presenting you with our new Dahlia Catalog for 1926. We do not list a large collection, but such varieties only that have been selected for their superiority in color, perfection of form, length and stiffness of stem, continuous blooming, etc. We list only novelties, and standard varieties of real merit, based on actual experience and personal observation.

We specialize on pot-grown Bulbs, grown under the most favorable climatic conditions. They will produce for you more perfect blooms, than the field-grown tuber.

Bulbs and green plants will give equally good results.

We supply bulbs after December 15th, pot-grown plants from May 15th to September.

ORDER EARLY. As orders are received stock will be reserved and sent at proper time.

IN COMPARING OUR PRICES with other Dahlia lists you will find it pays to buy from the grower direct.

TERMS: Prices in this Catalog are postpaid first, second and third zones. Cash with order or in advance of shipment.

We guarantee all bulbs true to name, and cheerfully replace any that should prove otherwise. Kindly notify us at once. Orders are carefully filled from selected pot-grown Bulbs. We do not substitute unless requested, but it is mutually agreed between the purchaser and ourselves that we shall at no time be liable for an amount larger than the original purchase price.

Key Route Heights Nursery Company

3852 LOMA VISTA AVENUE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

L. Nelson, Manager